

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



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GOV. PERDUE RECEIVES FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION FOR DECEMBER STORMS

More Than \$9 Million in Federal Funds Available

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today received a federal disaster declaration from Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator, Craig Fugate for the snow and ice storms that struck the mountains in December.

The declaration will provide more than \$9 million in federal funds available to eligible state agencies, 13 county governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency work and needed repairs to facilities damaged by the winter storm.

“The federal declaration has come at an opportune time and will help our communities recover from their losses,” said Perdue, who requested the FEMA assistance. “Many of these same counties incurred additional costs last weekend responding to our most recent snow and ice storm.”

The disaster declaration covers Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Jackson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey counties. Watauga and Madison counties incurred the most damage. Preliminary damage assessments indicate costs to recover from the back-to-back December winter storms will exceed \$12.5 million. Utility restoration accounts for more than half of the total bill, while debris removal accounts for about one third of the total cost. The N.C. Division of Emergency Management estimates the state will pay \$3.1 million to recover from the winter storms; federal funds will cover the remaining costs.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.